

February 13, 2001

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent for all legislative business during the week of February 5, 2001 through February 10, 2001, due to a medical condition. As a result, I missed the following votes: On Tuesday, February 6, 2001—question “On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass” (roll No. 9) for issue H.J. Res. 7—Recognizing the 90th birthday of Ronald Reagan—question “On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree” (roll No. 10) for issue H. Res. 28—Honoring the contributions of Catholic schools. On Wednesday, February 7, 2001—question “On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass” (roll No. 11) for issue H.R. 132—To designate the Goro Hokama Post Office Building in Lanai City, Hawaii.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” for question “On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass” for issue H.J. Res. 7 (roll No. 9), “yea” for question “On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree” for issue H. Res. 28 (roll No. 10), and “yea” for question “On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass” for issue H.R. 132 (roll No. 11).

PRESCRIBING ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT METHODS UNDER THE TRICARE PROGRAM

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that would allow retired members of the military to pay their TRICARE enrollment fees on a monthly basis.

Currently, TRICARE enrollees must pay their annual enrollment fees all at once or on a quarterly basis. Enrollment fees are \$230/year for individual enrollment, and \$460/year for family enrollment.

My bill establishes alternative payment mechanisms to provide for payment of such fees through: a deduction from military retired or retainer pay; a deduction from monthly Social Security benefits; and an electronic funds transfer from a checking or savings account.

Last year we passed legislation that enables the Department of Defense to provide TRICARE benefits to Medicare-eligible beneficiaries. As we honor our military retirees with access to a wonderful health care program, we should remember that many retirees are living on a fixed income. A one-time enrollment payment can severely limit their resources. My bill is designed to help individuals with a limited income spread out the payment of the yearly enrollment fee over 12 months.

I urge all members to cosponsor this legislation.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to twenty-two exceptional students at Claflin University, who are participating in the “Call Me Mister” program.

“Call Me Mister” was developed to address the looming shortage of teachers, especially black male teachers. The program strives to place black males in front of elementary school classrooms in order to provide positive role models for our children.

Each of the twenty-two participants in “Call Me Mister” at Claflin underwent a rigorous application process and are required to maintain a minimum grade point average. The students will complete 300 hours of community service before they graduate.

Black youths in South Carolina have the highest dropout rate of any group and twenty percent are held back in the first grade. These children are in desperate need of African American men to model their lives after, who can show them that the American dream can come true for all Americans.

“Call Me Mister” promises to provide the State of South Carolina with a new breed of teachers. Less than one percent of the state’s teachers are African American males despite the fact that the state is one-third black. Claflin University and the wonderful participants in the “Call Me Mister” program are working to make South Carolina’s elementary school classrooms more representative of the state itself.

Mr. Speaker, the “Call Me Mister” program is working to improve South Carolina schools along with the mentality of African American men. Please join me in paying tribute to these wonderful students and this long overdue program as they work to better the educational system in my state.

CONGRATULATING THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE ON POPE JOHN PAUL II’S UPCOMING VISIT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the Ukrainian people on His Holiness Pope John Paul II’s upcoming visit in June. The Pope recently accepted an invitation from Ukraine’s President to visit the country, undoubtedly answering the prayers of many Catholic Ukrainians.

Mr. Speaker, many of my constituents would also like to see His Holiness Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople visit Ukraine. Ukraine has a large Orthodox population, and a visit by the Patriarch to the country would be a blessing to them and would promote harmony between Catholic and Orthodox worshippers throughout Ukraine.

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INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION ON MODIFYING THE FTC’S ORIGIN RULES FOR WATCHES

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN THE ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which would modify the Federal Trade Commission’s practices for determining the country of origin of domestic watches, including those watches manufactured in the United States Virgin Islands.

The watch industry is the largest light manufacturing industry in the U.S. Virgin Islands and remains one of the most important direct and indirect sources of private sector employment in the Territory. The insular watch production industry is also highly import-sensitive and faces continued threats from multinational watch producers, who have continued to move their watch production to lower wage countries. The legislation that I am introducing today will help assure that domestic watch producers can compete on a level playing field with foreign producers with respect to the labeling and advertising of the origin of watches sold in the U.S. marketplace.

Currently, the FTC’s test for determining whether a watch is made in the United States differs from the FTC’s origin test for foreign-made watches, the Customs Service origin test for imported watches and longstanding international practice. The legislation that I am introducing today would rationalize these various tests by requiring that the FTC employ a common and well-established standard for determining the origin of all watches. This modification to the FTC’s practice would help ensure that consumers have a uniform basis on which to judge the country of origin of watches. It would also help promote the operations of U.S. watch producers, particularly those in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The production of watch movements by these producers (and their subsequent production of finished watches) involve highly labor intensive operations which add considerable value to the finished watch and to the U.S. and Virgin Islands economies.

The country of origin of a watch is, by longstanding international trade practice, generally considered to be the country in which the watch movement is produced. The movement is the “guts” of a watch. The production of a watch movement involves numerous, labor-intensive operations involving inspection, quality control, reworking and testing of some 35 to 45 individual parts prior to, during and after assembly. These operations require substantial investment in diversified precision equipment and employee training and add considerable value to the finished watch.

In determining the country of origin of imported products, the U.S. Customs Service generally employs the well-established concept of “substantial transformation.” The substantial transformation test—which is supported by almost 100 years of judicial and administrative precedent—recognizes that some functional changes and processes involved in the production of an imported product are so significant as to create an entirely new article.